

REMARKS

A review of the claims indicates that:

- A) Claims 1—13, 15—17 and 19—25 remain in their original form.
- B) Claim 14 is currently amended.
- C) Claims 18 and 26 are currently cancelled.
- D) Claims 27—31 are new.

In view of the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejected claims.

Double Patenting

The Patent Office provisionally rejected Claims 1, 3, 6—9, 13—17 and 26 on the grounds of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting over the co-pending 10/864,267 application. In response, the Applicant herein submits a Terminal Disclaimer. The Applicant submits the Terminal Disclaimer only to advance prosecution on this application without undue delay, and makes the submission without taking a position on the merits of this rejection.

Section 102 Rejections

Claims 14 and 26 were rejected under 35 USC Section 102 as being anticipated by the U.S. Patent No. 6,272,607, hereinafter "Baentsch." In response, the Applicant has amended Claim 14 and cancelled Claim 26. The Applicant has made the amendments and the cancellation only to advance prosecution on this application without undue delay. Accordingly, these actions should not be construed as an indication by the Applicant on the merits of this rejection.

Claim 14 has been amended to recite the elements previously seen in Claim 18, which is not currently rejected under any theory. Accordingly, Claim 14 is in condition for allowance.

New Claims

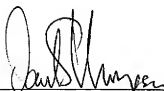
Five new Claims 27—31 combined the subject matter of Claim 14 and Claims 15, 16, 17, 19 and 20, respectively. Claims 15, 16, 17, 19 and 20 were rejected only due to Double Patenting, or not at all. Because the Double Patenting issue was resolved, new Claims 27—31 represent allowable subject matter.

Conclusion

The Applicant submits that all of the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that a Notice of Allowability be issued. If the Office's next anticipated action is not the issuance of a Notice of Allowability, the Applicant respectfully requests that the undersigned attorney be contacted for scheduling an interview.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: 5-7-07

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